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THE JUDGES AFTER JOSHUA.

AND Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old, and also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers.

And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which HE had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim; and they forsook the LORD GOD of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And HE delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and HE sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Nevertheless, the LORD raised up *judges*, which delivered

them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even *Othniel* the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim. And the land had rest forty years. And *Othniel* the son of Kenaz died.

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, *Ehud* the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man left-handed.

And after him was *Shamgar* the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox-goad : and he also delivered Israel.

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead. And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor ; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles. And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD : for he had nine hundred chariots of iron ; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

And *Deborah*, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Beth-el in mount Ephraim : and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. And she sent and called *Barak* the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali, and said unto him, 'Hath 'not the LORD GOD of Israel commanded, saying, "Go 'and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten 'thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the 'children of Zebulun? And I will draw unto thee to the 'river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with 'his chariots and his multitude ; and I will deliver him 'into thine hand.'" And Barak said unto her, 'If thou wilt 'go with me, then I will go : but if thou wilt not go with 'me, then I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go 'with thee : notwithstanding the journey that thou takest 'shall not be for thine honour ; for the LORD shall sell 'Sisera into the hands of a woman.' And Deborah arose,

and went with Barak to Kadesh. And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kadesh ; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet : and Deborah went up with him.

Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaïm, which is by Kadesh.

And they showed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

And Deborah said unto Barak, 'Up ; for this is the day 'in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand : 'is not the LORD gone out before thee ?' So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak ; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles : and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword ; and there was not a man left. Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite : for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, 'Turn in, my lord, turn in to me ; fear 'not.' And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle. And he said unto her, 'Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink ; for I am 'thirsty.' And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him

drink, and covered him. And again he said unto her, 'Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and inquire of thee, and say, "Is there any man here?" that thou shalt say, "No."' Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, 'Come, and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest.' And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.

So GOD subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

And the land had rest forty years.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strongholds. And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; and they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come into Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished

because of the Midianites ; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abi-ezrite : and his son *Gideon* threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, 'The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.' And Gideon said unto him, 'O my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, "Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.' And the LORD looked upon him, and said—

'Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites : have not I sent thee?'

And he said unto him, 'O my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.' And the LORD said unto him—

'Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.'

And he said unto him, 'If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee.' And he said, 'I will tarry until thou come again.'

And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour : the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. And the angel

of God said unto him, 'Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth.' And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, 'Alas, O LORD God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.' And the LORD said unto him—

'Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.'

Then all the Midianites and Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

And Gideon said unto God, 'If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.' And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto God, 'Let not thine anger be hot against me,

'and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.' And GOD did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. And the LORD said unto Gideon—

'The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, "Mine own hand hath saved me." Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, "Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead."'

And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the LORD said unto Gideon—

'The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, "This shall go with thee," the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, "This shall not go with thee," the same shall not go.'

So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon—

'Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.'

And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand

to their mouth, were three hundred men : but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the LORD said unto Gideon—

‘By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you,
‘and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all
‘the other people go every man unto his place.’

So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets : and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men : and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. And he said unto them, ‘Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, “The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.”’

So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch ; and they had but newly set the watch : and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal : and they cried, ‘The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.’ And they stood every man in his place round about the camp : and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout

all the host : and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites. And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, 'Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan.' Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan. And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb ; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the wine-press of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abi-ezrites.

And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god. And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their GOD, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side : neither showed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had showed unto Israel.

And *Abimelech* the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, 'Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, "Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons,

‘reign over you, or that one reign over you?’ remember ‘also that I am your bone and your flesh.’ And his mother’s brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, ‘He is our brother.’ And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him. And he went unto his father’s house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem. And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, ‘Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

‘The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive-tree, “Reign thou over us.” But the olive-tree said unto them, “Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?” And the trees said to the fig-tree, “Come thou, and reign over us.” But the fig-tree said unto them, “Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?” Then said the trees unto the vine, “Come thou, and reign over us.” And the vine said unto them, “Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?” Then said all the trees unto the bramble, “Come thou, and reign

'over us." And the bramble said unto the trees, "If
'in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come
'and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let
'fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of
'Lebanon."

'Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in
'that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt
'well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto
'him according to the deserving of his hands; (for my
'father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and
'delivered you out of the hand of Midian: and ye are
'risen up against my father's house this day, and have
'slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone,
'and have made Abimelech, the son of his maid-servant,
'king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;)
'if ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal
'and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech,
'and let him also rejoice in you: but if not, let fire come
'out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem,
'and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the
'men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour
'Abimelech.' And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went
to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his
brother.

And after Abimelech there arose to defend Israel *Tola*
the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and
he dwelt in Shamir in mount Ephraim. And he judged
Israel twenty and three years, and died, and was buried in
Shamir.

And after him arose *Jair*, a Gileadite, and judged Israel
twenty and two years. And he had thirty sons that rode
on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are

called Havoth-jair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead. And Jair died, and was buried in Camon.

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim; so that Israel was sore distressed.

And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, 'We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim.' And the LORD said unto the children of Israel—

'Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand. Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.'

And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, 'We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day.' And they

put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD : and His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh. And the people and princes of Gilead said one to another, 'What man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.'

Now *Jephthah* the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour. He was thrust forth by his brethren, and dwelt in Tob. And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob : and they said unto Jephthah, 'Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.' And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, 'Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?' And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, 'Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.' And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, 'If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?' And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, 'The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.' Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them : and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.

And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the

children of Ammon, saying, 'What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land?' And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, 'Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably.'

And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon: and said unto him, 'Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon: but when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh; then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, "Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land:" but the king of Edom would not hearken thereto. And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not consent: and Israel abode in Kadesh. Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab. And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, "Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place." But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel. And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.'

' And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from
' Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even
' unto Jordan. So now the LORD GOD of Israel hath dis-
' possessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and
' shouldest thou possess it? Wilt not thou possess that
' which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So
' whomsoever the LORD our GOD shall drive out from
' before us, them will we possess. And now art thou any-
' thing better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab?
' did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight
' against them, while Israel dwelt in Heshbon and her
' towns, and in Aroer and her towns, and in all the cities
' that be along by the coasts of Arnon? Wherefore I
' have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong
' to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this
' day between the children of Israel and the children of
' Ammon.'

Howbeit the king of the children of Ammon hearkened not unto the words of Jephthah which he sent him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, 'If thou shalt without fail
' deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, then
' it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of
' my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the
' children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I
' will offer it up for a burnt-offering.'

So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. And he smote them from Aroer, even till

thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances : and she was his only child ; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, ' Alas, my daughter ! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me : for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.' And she said unto him, ' My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth ; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.' And she said unto her father, ' Let this thing be done for me : let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.' And he said, ' Go.' And he sent her away for two months : and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed. And it was a custom in Israel, that the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, ' Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee ? we will burn thine

'house upon thee with fire.' And Jephthah said unto them, 'I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands. And when I saw that ye delivered me not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?'

Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, 'Ye Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, and among the Manassites.' And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was so, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, 'Let me go over;' that the men of Gilead said unto him, 'Art thou an Ephraimite?' If he said, 'Nay;' then said they unto him, 'Say now Shibboleth:' and he said, 'Sibboleth:' for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.

And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

And after him *Ibzan* of Beth-lehem judged Israel. And he had thirty sons, and thirty daughters, whom he sent abroad, and took in thirty daughters from abroad for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. Then died *Ibzan*, and was buried at Beth-lehem.

And after him, *Elon*, a Zebulonite, judged Israel; and he judged Israel ten years. And *Elon* the Zebulonite died, and was buried in *Aijalon* in the country of Zebulun.

And after him *Abdon* the son of *Hillel*, a *Pirathonite*, judged Israel. And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on threescore and ten ass-colts : and he judged Israel eight years. And *Abdon* the son of *Hillel* the *Pirathonite* died, and was buried in *Pirathon*, in the land of *Ephraim*, in the mount of the *Amalekites*.

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD ; and the LORD delivered them into the hands of the *Philistines* forty years.

And there was a certain man of *Zorah*, of the family of the *Danites*, whose name was *Manoah* ; and his wife was barren. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, ' Behold now, thou shalt bear ' a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink ' not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing : ' for, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son ; and no razor ' shall come on his head : for the child shall be a *Nazarite* ' unto God : and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the ' hand of the *Philistines*.'

Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, ' A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was ' like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible : ' but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his ' name : but he said unto me, " Behold, thou shalt con- ' ceive, and bear a son ; and now drink no wine nor strong ' drink, neither eat any unclean thing ; for the child shall ' be a *Nazarite* to God to the day of his death." '

Then *Manoah* entreated the LORD, and said, ' O my ' LORD, let the man of God which thou didst send come ' again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the ' child that shall be born.' And God hearkened to the voice of *Manoah* ; and the angel of God came again unto

the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. And the woman made haste, and ran, and showed her husband, and said unto him, 'Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day.' And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, 'Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman?' And he said, 'I am.' And Manoah said, 'Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?' And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, 'Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.'

And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, 'I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee.' And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, 'Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt-offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD.' For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, 'What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?' And the angel of the LORD said unto him, 'Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?' So Manoah took a kid with a meat-offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces

to the ground. But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto his wife, 'We shall surely die, because we have seen 'God.' But his wife said unto him, 'If the LORD were 'pleased to kill us, HE would not have received a burnt-offering and a meat-offering at our hands, neither would 'HE have showed us all these things, nor would as at this 'time have told us such things as these.'

And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson : and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

And it was told the Gazites, saying, 'Samson is come 'hither.' And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, 'In the morning, when it is day, we 'shall kill him.' And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, 'Entice him, and see wherein his great strength 'lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, 'that we may bind him to afflict him : and we will give 'thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.'

And Delilah said to Samson, 'Tell me, I pray thee, 'wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou 'mightest be bound to afflict thee.' And Samson said

unto her, 'If they bind me with seven green withs that 'were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another 'man.' Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, 'The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.' And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

And Delilah said unto Samson, 'Behold, thou hast 'mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, 'wherewith thou mightest be bound.' And he said unto her, 'If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were 'occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.' Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, 'The Philistines be upon thee, 'Samson.' And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

And Delilah said unto Samson, 'Hitherto thou hast 'mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou 'mightest be bound.' And he said unto her, 'If thou 'weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.' And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him, 'The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.' And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with the web.

And she said unto him, 'How canst thou say, I love 'thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked 'me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy 'great strength lieth.' And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so

that his soul was vexed unto death ; that he told her all his heart, and said unto her, ' There hath not come a razor ' upon mine head ; if I be shaven, then my strength will ' go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any ' other man.'

And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, ' Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart.' Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him sleep upon her knees ; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head ; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, ' The Philistines be upon thee, Samson.' And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, ' I will go out as at ' other times before, and shake myself.' And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass ; and he did grind in the prison house.

Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice : for they said, ' Our god hath delivered ' Samson our enemy into our hand.' And when the people saw him, they praised their god : for they said, ' Our god ' hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the de- ' stroyer of our country, which slew many of us.' And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, ' Call for Samson, that he may make us sport.' And they called for Samson out of the prison-house ; and he made them sport : and they set him between the pillars. And

Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, 'Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.' Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, 'O LORD GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O GOD, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.' And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, 'Let me die with the Philistines.' And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying-place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL.

SAMUEL.

THERE was a certain man of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, and he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other

Peninnah : and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And Hannah went up to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, and rose up after they had eaten and after they had drunk. (Now *Eli* the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.) And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, 'O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man-child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no-razor come upon his head.'

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart ; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard : therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, 'How long wilt thou be drunken ? put away thy wine from thee.' And Hannah answered and said, 'No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit : I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.' Then Eli answered and said, 'Go in peace : and the GOD of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.' And she said, 'Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight.' So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah : and it came to pass that she bare a son, and called

his name *Samuel*, saying, 'Because I have asked him of 'the LORD.'

And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, 'I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.' And Elkanah her husband said unto her, 'Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word.' So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'O my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD.'

And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; and ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; that the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, 'Here am I.' And

he ran unto Eli, and said, 'Here am I ; for thou calledst 'me.' And he said, 'I called not ; lie down again.' And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again—

'Samuel.'

And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, 'Here am I ; 'for thou didst call me.' And he answered, 'I called not, 'my son ; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, 'Here am I ; for thou didst call me.' And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, 'Go, lie down : and it shall be, if HE call 'thee, that thou shalt say, "Speak, LORD, for thy servant 'heareth."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times—

'Samuel, Samuel.'

Then Samuel answered, 'Speak ; for thy servant heareth.'
And the LORD said to Samuel—

'Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears
'of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will
'perform against Eli all things which I have spoken con-
'cerning his house : when I begin, I will also make an end.
'For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for
'the iniquity which he knoweth ; because his sons made
'themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And there-
'fore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity
'of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offer-
'ing for ever.'

And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to

show Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, 'Samuel, my son.' And he answered, 'Here am I.' And he said, 'What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me; God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that He said unto thee.' And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, 'It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.'

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: and the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.'

And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, 'Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to-day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.' So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubim: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of GOD. And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, 'What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews?' And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp. And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, 'God is come into the camp.' And they said, 'Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.'

And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, 'What meaneth the noise of this tumult?' And the man came in hastily, and told Eli. Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see. And the man said unto Eli, 'I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to-day out of the army.' And he said, 'What is there done, my son?' And the messenger answered and said, 'Israel is fled before the Philistines,

‘and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.’ And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Eben-ezer unto Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and HE smote them with a sore disease, and destroyed them.

Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, ‘They have brought about the ark of the GOD of Israel to us, to slay us and our people.’ So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, ‘Send away the ark of the GOD of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people.’ For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of GOD was very heavy there.

And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, 'What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.' And they said, 'If ye send away the ark of the GOD of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass-offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.'

And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home: and they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart. And the kine took the straight way to the way of Beth-shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Beth-shemesh. And they of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-shemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD. And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD. And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

And HE smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, be-

cause the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter. And the men of Beth-shemesh said, 'Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall HE go up from us?' And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, saying, 'The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.' And the men of Kirjath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjath-jearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, 'If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and HE will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.' Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. And Samuel said, 'Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.' And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, 'We have sinned against the LORD.' And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. And the children of Israel said to Samuel, 'Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that HE will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.' And Samuel took a

sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt-offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt-offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, 'Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.' So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places. And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his first-born was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together,

and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him, 'Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways : ' now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.'

But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel—

'Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee : for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice : howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.'

And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, 'This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you : He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen ; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties ; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be concubines, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive-yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your men-servants and your maid-servants, and your goodliest young men, and your

‘asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep; and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.’

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, ‘Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.’ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel—

‘Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.’

And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, ‘Go ye every man unto his city.’

S A U L.

Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, a mighty man of power. And he had a son, whose name was *Saul*, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

And the asses of Kish Saul’s father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, ‘Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.’ And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not. And when they were come to the land

of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, 'Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.' And he said unto him, 'Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go.'

Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying—

'To-morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.'

And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him—

'Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.'

Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, 'Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.' And Samuel answered Saul, and said, 'I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to-day, and to-morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?' And Saul answered and said, 'Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?'

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, 'Is it not because

‘the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?’ .

And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh ; and said unto the children of Israel, ‘Thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel, “I brought up Israël out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you : and ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations ; and ye have said unto him, “Nay, but set a king over us.” Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.’

And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken : and when they sought him, he could not be found.

Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered—

‘Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.’

And they ran and fetched him thence : and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

And Samuel said to all the people, ‘See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people?’ And all the people shouted, and said, ‘God save the king.’ Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD.

Then said Samuel to the people, 'Come, and let us go 'to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.' And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace-offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

And Samuel said unto all Israel, 'Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and 'have made a king over you. And now, behold, the king 'walketh before you: and I am old and gray-headed; and, 'behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before 'you from my childhood unto this day. Behold, here I 'am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his 'anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have 'I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I 'oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe 'to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.' And they said, 'Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed 'us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand.' And he said unto them, 'The LORD is witness against you, 'and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not 'found aught in my hand.' And they answered, 'HE is 'witness.'

And Samuel said unto the people, 'It is the LORD that 'advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers 'up out of the land of Egypt. Now therefore stand still, 'that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the 'righteous acts of the LORD, which HE did to you and to 'your fathers. When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your 'fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses 'and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of 'Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. And when

‘ they forgot the LORD their God, HE sold them into the
‘ hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the
‘ hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of
‘ Moab, and they fought against them. And they cried
‘ unto the LORD, and said, “ We have sinned, because we
‘ have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and
‘ Ashtaroth : but now deliver us out of the hand of our
‘ enemies, and we will serve thee.” And the LORD sent
‘ Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and
‘ delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every
‘ side, and ye dwelled safe. And when ye saw that Nahash
‘ the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye
‘ said unto me, “ Nay ; but a king shall reign over us : ”
‘ when the LORD your GOD was your king. Now there-
‘ fore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom
‘ ye have desired ! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king
‘ over you. If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and
‘ obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment
‘ of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that
‘ reigneth over you continue following the LORD your
‘ God : but if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but
‘ rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall
‘ the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against
‘ your fathers. Now therefore stand and see this great
‘ thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. Is it
‘ not wheat harvest to-day ? I will call unto the LORD,
‘ and HE shall send thunder and rain ; that ye may per-
‘ ceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye
‘ have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a
‘ king.’

So Samuel called unto the LORD ; and the LORD sent
thunder and rain that day : and all the people greatly

feared the LORD and Samuel. And all the people said unto Samuel, 'Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not : for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.' And Samuel said unto the people, 'Fear not : ye have done all this wickedness : yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart ; and turn ye not aside : for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver ; for they are vain. For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake : because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. Moreover as for me, GOD forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you : but I will teach you the good and the right way : only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart : for consider how great things HE hath done for you. But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.'

And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul : and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him. Samuel also said unto Saul, 'The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel : now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, "I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not ; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."'

And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten

thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. And Saul said unto the Kenites, 'Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt.' So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying—

'It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.'

And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, 'Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.'

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, 'Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.' And Samuel said, 'What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?' And Saul said, 'They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to

‘sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.’ Then Samuel said unto Saul, ‘Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.’ And he said unto him, ‘Say on.’

And Samuel said, ‘When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, “Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.” Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?’ And Saul said unto Samuel, ‘Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.’ And Samuel said, ‘Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, HE hath also rejected thee from being king.’ And Saul said unto Samuel, ‘I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.’ And Samuel said unto Saul, ‘I will not return with thee: for thou hast

'rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.' And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, 'The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent : for He is not a man that He should repent.' Then he said, 'I have sinned : yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.' So Samuel turned again after Saul ; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

Then said Samuel, 'Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.' And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, 'Surely the bitterness of death is past.' And Samuel said, 'As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women.' And Samuel hewed Agag in piec before the LORD in Gilgal.

Then Samuel went to Ramah ; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death : nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul.

And the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel. And the LORD said unto Samuel—

'How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel ? fill thine horn with oil and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite ; for I have provided me a king among his sons.'

And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came

to Beth-lehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, 'Comest thou peaceably?' And he said, 'Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before HIM. But the LORD said unto Samuel—

'Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.'

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, 'Neither hath the LORD chosen this.' Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, 'Neither hath the LORD chosen this.' Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, 'The LORD hath not chosen these.' And Samuel said unto Jesse, 'Are here all thy children?' And he said, 'There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.' And Samuel said unto Jesse, 'Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.' And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said—

'Arise, anoint him; for this is he.'

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon *David* from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servant said unto him, 'Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp : and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.' And Saul said unto his servants, 'Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.' Then answered one of the servants, and said, 'Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.' Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, 'Send me David, thy son, which is with the sheep.' And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him : and he loved him greatly ; and he became his armour-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, 'Let David, I pray thee, stand before me ; for he hath found favour in my sight.' And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand : so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side : and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail ; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders, and the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam ; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron : and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, ' Why are ye come out to set your battle in array ? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul ? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants : but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.' And the Philistine said, ' I defy the armies of Israel this day ; give me a man, that we may fight together.' When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

And David said to Saul, ' Let no man's heart fail because of him ; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, ' Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him : for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.' And David said unto Saul, ' Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock : and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth : and when he arose against

‘ me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear : and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.’ David said moreover, ‘ The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said unto David, ‘ Go, and the LORD be with thee.’

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head ; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go ; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, ‘ I cannot go with these ; for I have not proved them.’ And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip ; and his sling was in his hand ; and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David ; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him : for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, ‘ Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves ?’ And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, ‘ Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.’ Then said David to the Philistine, ‘ Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield : but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand ; and I will

‘smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’s, and HE will give you into our hands.’

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents. And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent.

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father’s house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was

upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely : and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said—

‘ Saul hath slain his thousands,

‘ And David his ten thousands.’

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him ; and he said, ‘ They have ascribed unto David ten ‘ thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands : ‘ and what can he have more but the kingdom ?’ And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul : and David played with his hand, as at other times : and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin ; for he said, ‘ I will ‘ smite David even to the wall with it.’ And David avoided out of his presence twice.

And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand ; and he went out and came in before the people. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways ; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that

he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, 'Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now ' therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: and I ' will go out and stand beside my father in the field where ' thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; ' and what I see, that I will tell thee.' And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, 'Let not the king sin against his servant, against ' David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and ' because his works have been to thee-ward very good: for ' he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, ' and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: ' thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt ' thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a ' cause?' And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul swore, 'As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.' And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand. And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and

he smote the javelin into the wall : and David fled, and escaped that night.

And David came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, ' Behold, ' David is at Naioth in Ramah.' And Saul sent messengers to take David.

And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, ' What have I done ? what is mine ' iniquity ? and what is my sin before thy father, that he ' seeketh my life ? ' And he said unto him, ' God forbid ; ' thou shalt not die : behold, my father will do nothing ' either great or small, but that he will show it me : and ' why should my father hide this thing from me ? it is not ' so.' And David swore moreover, and said, ' Thy father ' certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes ; ' and he saith, " Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be ' grieved : " but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul ' liveth, there is but a step between me and death.' Then said Jonathan unto David, ' Whatsoever thy soul desireth, ' I will even do it for thee.'

And David said unto Jonathan, ' Behold, to-morrow is ' the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king ' at meat : but let me go, that I may hide myself in the ' field unto the third day at even. If thy father at all miss ' me, then say, " David earnestly asked leave of me that ' he might run to Beth-lehem his city : for there is a yearly ' sacrifice there for all the family." If he say thus, " It is ' well ; " thy servant shall have peace : but if he be very ' wroth, then be sure that evil is determined by him. ' Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant ; for ' thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of th

'LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me 'iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring 'me to thy father?'

And Jonathan said, 'Far be it from thee: for if I knew 'certainly that evil were determined by my father to come 'upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

Then said David to Jonathan, 'Who shall tell me? or 'what if thy father answer thee roughly?' And Jonathan said unto David, 'Come, and let us go out into 'the field.' And they went out both of them into the field. And Jonathan said unto David, 'O LORD GOD of 'Israel, when I have sounded my father about to-morrow 'any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good 'toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show 'it thee; the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: 'but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will show 'it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: 'and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my 'father. And thou shalt not only while yet I live show 'me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: but also 'thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for 'ever; no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies 'of David every one from the face of the earth.' So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, 'Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's 'enemies.' And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Then Jonathan said to David, 'To-morrow is the new 'moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be 'empty. And when thou hast stayed three days, then 'thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where

‘thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand,
‘and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. And I will shoot
‘three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a
‘mark. And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, “Go, find
‘out the arrows.” If I expressly say unto the lad, “Be-
‘hold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them ;”
‘then come thou : for there is peace to thee, and no hurt ;
‘as the LORD liveth. But if I say thus unto the young
‘man, “Behold, the arrows are beyond thee ;” go thy way :
‘for the LORD hath sent thee away. And as touching the
‘matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the
‘LORD be between thee and me for ever.’

So David hid himself in the field : and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat. And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall : and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul’s side, and David’s place was empty. Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day. And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David’s place was empty : and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, ‘Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to-day?’ And Jonathan answered Saul, ‘David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem : and he said, “Let me go, I pray thee ; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city ; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there : and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren.” Therefore he cometh not unto the king’s table.’

Then Saul’s anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, ‘Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to

'thine own confusion? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.' And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, 'Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?' And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. And he said unto his lad, 'Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot.' And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, 'Is not the arrow beyond thee?' And Jonathan cried after the lad, 'Make speed, haste, stay not.' And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master. But the lad knew not anything: only Jonathan and David knew the matter. And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, 'Go, carry them to the city.'

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. And Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD be between me and thee, and between my

‘seed and thy seed for ever.”’ And he arose and departed : and Jonathan went into the city.

And David went and dwelt in strongholds at En-gedi. And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, ‘Behold, ‘David is in the wilderness of En-gedi.’ Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the sheep-cotes by the way, where was a cave ; and Saul went in to cover his feet : and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, ‘Behold the day of which the ‘LORD said unto thee, “Behold, I will deliver thine enemy ‘into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall ‘seem good unto thee.”’ Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul’s robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David’s heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul’s skirt. And he said unto his men, ‘The ‘LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, ‘the LORD’s anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against ‘him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.’ So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, ‘My lord the king’ And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. And David said to Saul, ‘Wherefore hearest thou men’s words, saying, “Behold, ‘David seeketh thy hurt?” Behold, this day thine eyes ‘have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to-day ‘into mine hand in the cave ; and some bade me kill thee :

'but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.'

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, 'Is this thy voice, my son David?' And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, 'Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. And thou hast showed this day how thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not. For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the LORD reward thee good for that thou hast done unto me this day. And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand. Swear now therefore unto me by the LORD, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house.' And David swore unto Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto the hold.

And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah.

And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, 'Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?' Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him. Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother to Joab, saying, 'Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp?' And Abishai said, 'I will go down with thee.' So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him. Then said Abishai to David, 'God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.' And David said to Abishai, 'Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?' David said furthermore, 'As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's

'anointed : but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that 'is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.' So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster ; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked : for they were all asleep ; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off ; a great space being between them : and David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, 'Answerest thou not, Abner ?' Then Abner answered and said, 'Who art thou that criest to 'the king ?' And David said to Abner, 'Art not thou a 'valiant man ? and who is like to thee in Israel ? where- 'fore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king ? for there 'came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. 'This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the 'LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not 'kept your master, the LORD's anointed. And now see 'where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was 'at his bolster.' And Saul knew David's voice, and said, 'Is this thy voice, my son David ?' And David said, 'It is my voice, my lord, O king.' And he said, 'Where- 'fore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant ? for 'what have I done ? or what evil is in mine hand ?'

Then said Saul, 'I have sinned : return, my son David : 'for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was pre- 'cious in thine eyes this day : behold, I have played the 'fool, and have erred exceedingly.' And David answered and said, 'Behold the king's spear ! and let one of the 'young men come over and fetch it. The LORD render to 'every man his righteousness and his faithfulness : for the 'LORD delivered thee into my hand to-day, but I would

‘not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD’s anointed.’ So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem : and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Now the Philistines fought against Israel : and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons ; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchi-shua, Saul’s sons. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him ; and he was sore wounded of the archers. Then said Saul unto his armour-bearer, ‘Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith ; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me.’ But his armour-bearer would not ; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. And when his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men, that same day together.

And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled ; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul; all the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL.

DAVID.

AND David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

‘ The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places :
‘ How are the mighty fallen !
‘ Tell it not in Gath,
‘ Publish it not in the streets of Askelon ;
‘ Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,
‘ Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

- ' Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew,
- ' Neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings :
- ' For there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away,
- ' The shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.
- ' From the blood of the slain,
- ' From the fat of the mighty,
- ' The bow of Jonathan turned not back,
- ' And the sword of Saul returned not empty.
- ' Saul and Jonathan
- ' Were lovely and pleasant in their lives,
- ' And in their death they were not divided :
- ' They were swifter than eagles,
- ' They were stronger than lions.
- ' Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
- ' Who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights,
- ' Who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
- ' How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle !
- ' O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.
- ' I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan :
- ' Very pleasant hast thou been unto me :
- ' Thy love to me was wonderful,
- ' Passing the love of women.
- ' How are the mighty fallen,
- ' And the weapons of war perished !'

And the men of Judah came, and anointed David king over the house of Judah.

Ish-bosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. And the time that

David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker. And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his first-born was Amnon; and his second, Chileab; and the third, Absalom; and the fourth, Adonijah; and the fifth, Shephatiah; and the sixth, Ithream. These were born to David in Hebron.

Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, 'Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, "Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem, and took the stronghold of Zion: the same is the city of David. And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house. And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that HE had exalted his kingdom for His people Israel's sake.

But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David ; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. And David smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim.

And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah : and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God : and Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. And when they came to Nachon's threshing-floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it ; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah ; and God smote him there for his error ; and there he died by the ark of God. And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah : and he called the name of the place Perez-uzzah to this day. And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, ' How shall the ark of the LORD come to me ? ' So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David : but David carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite

three months: and the LORD blessed Obed-edom, and all his household.

And it was told king David, saying, 'The LORD hath 'blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that pertaineth 'unto him, because of the ark of God.' So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness. And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. And David danced before the LORD with all his might. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; that the king said unto Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of 'God dwelleth within curtains.' And Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is 'with thee.'

And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying—

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus saith the LORD, 'Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas 'I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought 'up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, 'but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the 'places wherein I have walked with all the children of 'Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom 'I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build 'ye not me an house of cedar?" Now therefore so shalt 'thou say unto my servant David, "Thus saith the LORD of 'hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the 'sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: and I was 'with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all

' thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them; that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as before-time, and as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that HE will make thee an house. And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.'

According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them.

And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

And it came to pass that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, 'Of what city art thou?' And he said, 'Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.' And Absalom

said unto him, 'See, thy matters are good and right ; but 'there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.' Absalom said moreover, 'Oh that I were made judge in 'the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause 'might come unto me, and I would do him justice.' And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

And there came a messenger to David, saying, 'The 'hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.' And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, 'Arise, and let us flee ; for we shall not else 'escape from Absalom ; make speed to depart, lest he 'overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite 'the city with the edge of the sword.' And the king's servants said unto the king, 'Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.'

And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And he went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot ; and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. And one told David, saying, 'Ahithophel 'is among the conspirators with Absalom.' And David said, 'O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel 'into foolishness.'

And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem.

And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds

over them. And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, 'I will surely go forth with you 'myself also.' But the people answered, 'Thou shalt not 'go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; 'neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now 'thou art worth ten thousand of us: therefore now it is 'better that thou succour us out of the city.' And the king said unto them, 'What seemeth you best I will do.' And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even 'with Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim; where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men. For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured. And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, 'Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.' And Joab said unto the man that told him, 'And, behold, thou sawest

'him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.' And the man said unto Joab, 'Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Beware that none touch the young man Absalom." Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.' Then said Joab, 'I may not tarry thus with thee.' And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him. And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel.

And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone. And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, 'If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth.' And he came apace, and drew near. And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, 'Behold another man running alone.' And the king said, 'He also bringeth tidings.' And the watchman said, 'Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, 'He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.'

And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, 'All is well.' And he fell down to the earth upon his face before

the king, and said, 'Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.' And the king said, 'Is the young man Absalom safe?' And Ahimaaz answered, 'When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.' And the king said unto him, 'Turn aside, and stand here.' And he turned aside, and stood still. And, behold, Cushite came; and Cushite said, 'Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.' And the king said unto Cushite, 'Is the young man Absalom safe?' And Cushite answered, 'The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.' And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, 'The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?'

And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, 'Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, "Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?" And say to Amasa, "Art thou not of

‘ my bone, and of my flesh ? God do so to me, and more
‘ also, if thou be not captain of the host before me con-
‘ tinually in the room of Joab.”’ And he bowed the heart
of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man ; so
that they sent this word unto the king, ‘ Return thou, and
‘ all thy servants.’ So the king returned, and came to
Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the
king, to conduct the king over Jordan. And David came
to his house at Jerusalem.

And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in
the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of
all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: and he said—

‘ The LORD is my rock, and my fortress,
‘ And my deliverer ; the GOD of my rock ;
‘ In him will I trust :
‘ HE is my shield, and the horn of my salvation,
‘ My high tower, and my refuge,
‘ My saviour ; THOU savest me from violence.
‘ I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised :
‘ So shall I be saved from mine enemies.
‘ When the waves of death compassed me,
‘ The floods of ungodly men made me afraid ;
‘ The sorrows of hell compassed me about ;
‘ The snares of death prevented me ;
‘ In my distress I called upon the LORD,
‘ And cried to my God :
‘ And HE did hear my voice out of his temple,
‘ And my cry did enter into his ears.
‘ Then the earth shook and trembled ;
‘ The foundations of heaven moved and shook,
‘ Because HE was wroth.

‘ There went up a smoke out of his nostrils,
‘ And fire out of his mouth devoured :
‘ Coals were kindled by it.
‘ HE bowed the heavens also, and came down ;
‘ And darkness was under his feet.
‘ And HE rode upon a cherub, and did fly :
‘ And HE was seen upon the wings of the wind.
‘ And HE made darkness pavilions round about him,
‘ Dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.
‘ Through the brightness before him
‘ Were coals of fire kindled.
‘ The LORD thundered from heaven,
‘ And the MOST HIGH uttered his voice.
‘ And HE sent out arrows, and scattered them ;
‘ Lightning, and discomfited them.
‘ And the channels of the sea appeared,
‘ The foundations of the world were discovered,
‘ At the rebuking of the LORD,
‘ At the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

‘ HE sent from above, HE took me ;
‘ HE drew me out of many waters ;
‘ HE delivered me from my strong enemy,
‘ And from them that hated me :
‘ For they were too strong for me.
‘ They prevented me in the day of my calamity :
‘ But the LORD was my stay.
‘ HE brought me forth also into a large place :
‘ HE delivered me, because HE delighted in me.
‘ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness :
‘ According to the cleanness of my hands hath HE recom-
‘ pensed me.

‘ For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
‘ And have not wickedly departed from my God.
‘ For all his judgments were before me :
‘ And as for his statutes, I did not depart from them.
‘ I was also upright before him,
‘ And have kept myself from mine iniquity.
‘ Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to
‘ my righteousness ;
‘ According to my cleanness in his eyesight.

‘ With the merciful THOU wilt show thyself merciful,
‘ And with the upright man THOU wilt show thyself up-
‘ right.
‘ With the pure THOU wilt show thyself pure ;
‘ And with the froward THOU wilt show thyself unsavoury.
‘ And the afflicted people THOU wilt save :
‘ But thine eyes are upon the haughty, that THOU mayest
‘ bring them down.
‘ For THOU art my lamp, O LORD :
‘ And the LORD will lighten my darkness.
‘ For by thee I have run through a troop :
‘ By my God have I leaped over a wall.
‘ As for God, his way is perfect ;
‘ The word of the LORD is tried :
‘ HE is a buckler to all them that trust in him.
‘ For who is GOD, save the LORD !
‘ And who is a rock, save our GOD ?
‘ GOD is my strength and power :
‘ And HE maketh my way perfect.
‘ HE maketh my feet like hinds’ feet :
‘ And setteth me upon my high places.
‘ HE teacheth my hands to war ;

- ' So that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.
 - ' THOU hast also given me the shield of thy salvation :
 - ' And thy gentleness hath made me great.
 - ' THOU hast enlarged my steps under me ;
 - ' So that my feet did not slip.
 - ' I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them ;
 - ' And turned not again until I had consumed them.
 - ' And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that
 - ' they could not rise :
 - ' Yea, they are fallen under my feet.
 - ' For THOU hast girded me with strength to battle :
 - ' Them that rose up against me hast THOU subdued under
 - ' me.
 - ' THOU hast also given me the necks of mine enemies,
 - ' That I might destroy them that hate me.
 - ' They looked, but there was none to save ;
 - ' Even unto the LORD, but HE answered them not.
 - ' Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth :
 - ' I did stamp them as the mire of the street,
 - ' And did spread them abroad.
 - ' THOU also hast delivered me from the strivings of my
 - ' people,
 - ' THOU hast kept me to be head of the heathen :
 - ' A people which I knew not shall serve me.
 - ' Strangers shall submit themselves unto me :
 - ' As soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.
 - ' Strangers shall fade away,
 - ' And they shall be afraid out of their close places.
-
- ' The LORD liveth ;
 - ' And blessed be my rock ;
 - ' And exalted be the GOD of the rock of my salvation.

' It is GOD that avengeth me,
' And that bringeth down the people under me,
' And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies :
' THOU also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose
 ' up against me :
' THOU hast delivered me from the violent man.
' Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD among
 ' the heathen,
' And I will sing praises unto thy name.
' HE is the tower of salvation for his king :
' And sheweth mercy to his anointed,
' Unto David, and to his seed for evermore.'

Now these be the last words of David—

' David the son of Jesse said,
' And the man who was raised up on high,
' The anointed of the GOD of Jacob,
' And the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,
' The Spirit of the LORD spake by me,
' And his word was in my tongue.
' The GOD of Israel said,
' The Rock of Israel spake to me,
' HE that ruleth over men must be just,
' Ruling in the fear of GOD.
' And HE shall be as the light of the morning, when the
 ' sun riseth,
' Even a morning without clouds ;
' As the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear
 ' shining after rain.
' Although my house be not so with GOD ;
' Yet HE hath made with me an everlasting covenant,
' Ordered in all things, and sure :

‘ For this is all my salvation, and all my desire,
‘ Although HE make it not to grow.
‘ But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns
‘ thrust away,
‘ Because they cannot be taken with hands :
‘ But the man that shall touch them
‘ Must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear ;
‘ And they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same
‘ place.’

THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS.

Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die ;
and he charged Solomon his son, saying, ‘ I go the way of
‘ all the earth : be thou strong therefore, and show thyself
‘ a man ; and keep the charge of the LORD thy GOD, to
‘ walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his command-
‘ ments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is
‘ written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in
‘ all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest
‘ thyself.’

So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the
city of David.

Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father ;
and his kingdom was established greatly.

And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt,
and took Pharaoh’s daughter, and brought her into the

city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about. Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days. And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt-offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said—

‘Ask what I shall give thee.’

And Solomon said, ‘Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?’

And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him—

'Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked
'for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself,
'nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked
'for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I
'have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a
'wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none
'like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any rise like
'unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou
'hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there
'shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy
'days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my
'statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did
'walk, then I will lengthen thy days.'

And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt-offerings, and offered peace-offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

Then came there two women unto the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said, 'O my lord, I
'and this woman dwell in one house. And this woman's
'child died in the night; because she overlaid it. And
'she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me,
'while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom,
'and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose
'in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was
'dead: but when I had considered it in the morning,
'behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.' And the
other woman said, 'Nay; but the living is my son, and
'the dead is thy son.' And this said, 'No; but the dead
'is thy son, and the living is my son.' Thus they spake
before the king. Then said the king, 'The one saith,
'"This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead:"
'and the other saith, "Nay; but thy son is the dead,

‘and my son is the living.’” And the king said, ‘Bring me a sword.’ And they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, ‘Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.’ Then spake the woman, whose the living child was, unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, ‘O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it.’ But the other said, ‘Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.’ Then the king answered and said, ‘Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.’ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

So king Solomon was king over all Israel.

And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household.

Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry. And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; and his fame was in all nations round about. And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that

springeth out of the wall : he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon ; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father : for Hiram was ever a lover of David. And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, 'Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent. And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, "Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name." Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon ; and my servants shall be with thy servants : and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint : for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.'

And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, 'Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people.' And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, 'I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for : and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea : and

'I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them : and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.'

So Hiram gave Solomon cedar-trees and fir-trees according to all his desire. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil : thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He promised him : and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon ; and they two made a league together.

And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel ; and the levy was thirty thousand men. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses : a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home : and Adoniram was over the levy. And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains ; beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work. And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone-squarers : so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits. And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house. And for the house he made windows of narrow lights. And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about: the nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house. And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third. So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar. And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying—

‘Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou
‘wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and
‘keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I
‘perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy

**' father ; and I will dwell among the children of Israel, and
' will not forsake my people Israel.'**

So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling : and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar : he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place. And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long. And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers : all was cedar ; there was no stone seen. And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD. And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof : and he overlaid it with pure gold ; and so covered the altar which was of cedar. So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold : and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle ; and he overlaid it with gold. And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house : also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

And within the oracle he made two cherubim of olive-tree, each ten cubits high. And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub : from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits. And the other cherub was ten cubits : both the cherubim were of one measure and one size. The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. And

he set the cherubim within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubim, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. And he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers, within and without. And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive-tree: the lintel and side-posts were a fifth part of the wall. The two doors also were of olive-tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubim, and upon the palm-trees. So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive-tree, a fourth part of the wall. And the two doors were of fir-tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. And he carved thereon cherubim and palm-trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work. And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif: and in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon.

And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass.

And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work. For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece: and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about. And he made two chapiters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapiter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapiter was five cubits: and nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapiter, and seven for the other chapiter. And he made the pillars, and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that were upon the top, with pomegranates: and so did he for the other chapiter. And the chapiters that were upon the top of the pillars were of lily work in the porch, four cubits. And the chapiters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapiter. And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and upon the top of the pillars was lily work: so was the work of the pillars finished.

And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about. And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the

sea round about: the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast. It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward. And it was an handbreadth thick, and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies: it contained two thousand baths.

And he made ten bases of brass; four cubits was the length of one base, and four cubits the breadth thereof, and three cubits the height of it. And the work of the bases was on this manner: they had borders, and the borders were between the ledges: and on the borders that were between the ledges were lions, oxen, and cherubim: and upon the ledges there was a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen were certain additions made of thin work. And every base had four brasen wheels, and plates of brass: and the four corners thereof had undersetters: under the laver were undersetters molten, at the side of every addition. And the mouth of it within the chapiter and above was a cubit: but the mouth thereof was round after the work of the base, a cubit and an half: and also upon the mouth of it were gravings with their borders, foursquare, not round. And under the borders were four wheels; and the axletrees of the wheels were joined to the base: and the height of a wheel was a cubit and half a cubit. And the work of the wheels was like the work of a chariot wheel: their axletrees, and their naves, and their felloes, and their spokes, were all molten. And there were four undersetters to the four corners of one base: and the undersetters were of the very base itself. And in the top of the base was there a round compass of half a cubit high:

and on the top of the base the ledges thereof and the borders thereof were of the same. For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubim, lions, and palm-trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about. After this manner he made the ten bases : all of them had one casting, one measure, and one size. Then made he ten lavers of brass : one laver contained forty baths : and every laver was four cubits : and upon every one of the ten bases one laver. And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house : and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward over against the south.

And Hiram made the lavers, and the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he made king Solomon for the house of the LORD. In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarthan. And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because they were exceeding many : neither was the weight of the brass found out.

And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the LORD : the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the showbread was, and the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold, and the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold ; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple.

So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the LORD. And Solomon brought in the

things which David his father had dedicated ; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up. And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude. And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the staves thereof above. And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without : and there they are unto this day. There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of

the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud : for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

Then spake Solomon, 'The LORD said that HE would dwell in the thick darkness. I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.' And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel : (and all the congregation of Israel stood ;) and he said, 'Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying—

'Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein ; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.'

'And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD GOD of Israel. And the LORD said unto David my father—

'Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house ; but thy son shall build the house unto my name.'

'And the LORD hath performed his word that HE spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD GOD of Israel. And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which HE made with our fathers, when HE brought them out of the land of Egypt.'

And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the

presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven :

And he said, ' LORD GOD of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart : who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him : thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. Therefore now, LORD GOD of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying—

' There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel ; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.'

' And now, O GOD of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

' But will GOD indeed dwell on the earth ? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee ; how much less this house that I have builded ? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my GOD, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to-day : that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said—

' My name shall be there : '

' that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. And hearken thou

‘ to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people
‘ Israel, when they shall pray toward this place : and hear
‘ thou in heaven thy dwelling-place : and when thou hearest,
‘ forgive.

‘ If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath
‘ be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath
‘ come before thine altar in this house : then hear thou
‘ in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning
‘ the wicked, to bring his way upon his head ; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

‘ When thy people Israel be smitten down before the
‘ enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall
‘ turn-again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and
‘ make supplication unto thee in this house : then hear
‘ thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel,
‘ and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest
‘ unto their fathers.

‘ When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because
‘ they have sinned against thee ; if they pray toward this
‘ place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin,
‘ when thou afflictest them : then hear thou in heaven,
‘ and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people
‘ Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they
‘ should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou
‘ hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

‘ If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence,
‘ blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar ; if
‘ their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities ;
‘ whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be ; what
‘ prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or
‘ by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the

‘ plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands
‘ toward this house : then hear thou in heaven thy
‘ dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and give to every
‘ man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest ;
‘ (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the
‘ children of men ;) that they may fear thee all the days
‘ that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our
‘ fathers.

‘ Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy
‘ people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy
‘ name’s sake ; (for they shall hear of thy great name,
‘ and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched-out arm ;)
‘ when he shall come and pray toward this house ; hear
‘ thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do according to
‘ all that the stranger calleth to thee for : that all people
‘ of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy
‘ people Israel ; and that they may know that this house,
‘ which I have builded, is called by thy name.

‘ If thy people go out to battle against their enemy,
‘ whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto
‘ the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and
‘ toward the house that I have built for thy name : then
‘ hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication,
‘ and maintain their cause.

‘ If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that
‘ sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver
‘ them to the enemy, so that they carry them away
‘ captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near ; yet if
‘ they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they
‘ were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication
‘ unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives,
‘ saying, “ We have sinned, and have done perversely, we

‘ have committed wickedness ; ’ and so return unto thee
‘ with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of
‘ their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray
‘ unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto
‘ their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the
‘ house which I have built for thy name : then hear thou
‘ their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwell-
‘ ing-place, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy
‘ people that have sinned against thee, and all their trans-
‘ gressions wherein they have transgressed against thee,
‘ and give them compassion before them who carried them
‘ captive, that they may have compassion on them : for
‘ they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou
‘ broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the
‘ furnace of iron : that thine eyes may be open unto the
‘ supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication
‘ of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that
‘ they call for unto thee. For thou didst separate them
‘ from among all the people of the earth, to be thine in-
‘ heritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy
‘ servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt,
‘ O LORD GOD.’

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, ‘ Blessed be the LORD, that hath
‘ given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that
‘ HE promised : there hath not failed one word of all his
‘ good promise, which HE promised by the hand of Moses
‘ his servant. The LORD our God be with us, as HE was

‘with our fathers : let him not leave us, nor forsake us :
‘that HE may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all
‘his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes,
‘and his judgments, which HE commanded our fathers.
‘And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God
‘day and night, that HE maintain the cause of his servant,
‘and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the
‘matter shall require : that all the people of the earth
‘may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none
‘else. Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD
‘our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.’

And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace-offerings, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days. On the eighth day he sent the people away : and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as HE had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

And the LORD said unto him—

‘ I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou
‘ hast made before me : I have hallowed this house, which
‘ thou hast built, to put my name there for ever ; and mine
‘ eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. And if
‘ thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in
‘ integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to
‘ all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes
‘ and my judgments : then I will establish the throne of thy
‘ kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy
‘ father, saying, “ There shall not fail thee a man upon the
‘ throne of Israel.” But if ye shall at all turn from following
‘ me, ye or your children, and will not keep my command-
‘ ments and my statutes which I have set before you, but
‘ go and serve other gods, and worship them ; then will
‘ I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them ;
‘ and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will
‘ I cast out of my sight ; and Israel shall be a proverb and
‘ a byword among all people : and at this house, which is
‘ high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished,
‘ and shall hiss ; and they shall say, “ Why hath the LORD
‘ done thus unto this land, and to this house ? ” and they
‘ shall answer, “ Because they forsook the LORD their GOD,
‘ who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt,
‘ and have taken hold upon other gods, and have wor-
‘ shipped them, and served them : therefore hath the LORD
‘ brought upon them all this evil.” ’

So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen : and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and

twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.

And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore-trees that are in the vale, for abundance. And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn : the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty : and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means.

And it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods : and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his GOD, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense, and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD GOD of Israel. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon—

' Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not
' kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have com-
' manded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee,
' and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in
' thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake :
' but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit

'I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.'

And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon.

And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king. And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field: and Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces: and he said to Jeroboam, 'Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel—

'Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (but he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:) because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father. Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes: but I will

'take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel. And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee. And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.'

Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

And *Rehoboam* went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, that they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, 'Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.' And he said unto them, 'Depart yet for three days, then come again to me.' And the people departed.

And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, 'How do ye advise that I may answer this people?'

And they spake unto him, saying, 'If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.'

But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: and he said unto them, 'What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, "Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?"' And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, 'Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, "Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us;" thus shalt thou say unto them, "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."'

So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; and spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, 'My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.'

So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, 'What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David.' So Israel departed unto their tents.

But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein.

And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem; and he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber.

And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And *Abijam* his son reigned in his stead.

Three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his

GOD, as the heart of David his father. Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his GOD give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem. And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

And Abijam slept with his fathers ; and they buried him in the city of David : and *Asa* his son reigned in his stead.

Forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And *Asa* did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. And there was war between *Asa* and *Baasha* king of Israel all their days.

And *Asa* slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father : and *Jehoshaphat* his son reigned in his stead.

And in the thirty and eighth year of *Asa* king of Judah began *Ahab* the son of *Omri* to reign over Israel : and *Ahab* the son of *Omri* reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. And *Ahab* the son of *Omri* did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of *Jeroboam* the son of *Nebat*, that he took to wife *Jezebel* the daughter of *Ethbaal* king of the *Zidonians*, and went and served *Baal*, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for *Baal* in the house of *Baal*, which he had built in Samaria. And *Ahab* made a grove ; and *Ahab* did more to provoke the LORD GOD of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

And *Elijah* the *Tishbite*, who was of the inhabitants of *Gilead*, said unto *Ahab*, 'As the LORD GOD of Israel 'liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor 'rain these years, but according to my word.'

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying—

'Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.'

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying—

'Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.'

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, 'Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.' And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, 'Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.' And she said, 'As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' And Elijah said unto her, 'Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel—

'The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.'

And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah : and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which He spake by Elijah.

And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick ; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, 'What have I to do with thee, 'O thou man of GOD? art thou come unto me to call my 'sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?' And he said unto her, 'Give me thy son.' And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, 'O LORD my GOD, hast thou also brought 'evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her 'son?' And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, 'O LORD my 'God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.' And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah ; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother : and Elijah said, 'See thy son liveth.' And the woman said to Elijah, 'Now by this I know that thou art 'a man of GOD, and that the word of the LORD in thy 'mouth is truth.'

And it came to pass, after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying—

'Go, show thyself unto Ahab ; and I will send rain upon 'the earth.'

And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly : for it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab said unto Obadiah, ' Go into the land, unto all ' fountains of water, and unto all brooks : peradventure we ' may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that ' we lose not all the beasts.' So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it : Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him : and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, ' Art thou that my lord Elijah ? ' And he answered him, ' I am : go, tell thy lord, " Behold, Elijah is here." ' And he said, ' What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver ' thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me ? As the ' LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, ' whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee : and when ' they said, " He is not there," he took an oath of the ' kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. And ' now thou sayest, " Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is ' here." And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone ' from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee ' whither I know not ; and so when I come and tell Ahab, ' and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me : but I thy ' servant fear the LORD from my youth. Was it not told ' my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of ' the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's ' prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and

'water? And now thou sayest, "Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here:" and he shall slay me.' And Elijah said, 'As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him to-day.'

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah. And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, 'Art thou he that troubleth Israel?' And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.' So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, 'How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, 'I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.' And all the people answered and said, 'It is well spoken.'

And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, 'Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are

'many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no 'fire under.' And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us.' But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, 'Cry 'aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is 'pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he 'sleepeth, and must be awaked.' And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when mid-day was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

And Elijah said unto all the people, 'Come near unto 'me.' And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying—

'Israel shall be thy name:'

and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, 'Fill four barrels with water, and 'pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.' And he said, 'Do it the second time.' And they did it the second time. And he said, 'Do it the third time.' And they

did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar ; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, ' LORD GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be ' known this day that thou art GOD in Israel, and that I ' am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at ' thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people ' may know that thou art the LORD GOD, and that thou ' hast turned their heart back again.' Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces : and they said, ' The LORD, HE is the GOD ! the LORD, HE ' is the GOD ! ' And Elijah said unto them, ' Take the ' prophets of Baal ; let not one of them escape.' And they took them : and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

And Elijah said unto Ahab, ' Get thee up, eat and ' drink ; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.' So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel ; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, ' Go up now, look toward the sea.' And he went up, and looked, and said, ' There is nothing.' And he said, ' Go again seven times.' And it came to pass, at the seventh time, that he said, ' Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.' And he said, ' Go up, say unto Ahab, " Prepare thy chariot, and get ' thee down, that the rain stop thee not." ' And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with

clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, 'So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to-morrow about this time.' And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper-tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.' And as he lay and slept under a juniper-tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, 'Arise and eat.' And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, 'Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.' And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and HE said unto him—

'What doest thou here, Elijah?'

And he said, 'I have been very jealous for the LORD God

‘ of hosts : for the children of Israel have forsaken thy
‘ covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy pro-
‘ phets with the sword ; and I, even I only, am left ; and
‘ they seek my life, to take it away.’ And HE said—

‘ Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.’

And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD ; but the LORD was not in the wind : and after the wind an earthquake ; but the LORD was not in the earthquake : and after the earthquake a fire ; but the LORD was not in the fire : and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, ‘ What doest thou here, Elijah?’ And he said, ‘ I have been very jealous for the LORD God
‘ of hosts : because the children of Israel have forsaken
‘ thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy
‘ prophets with the sword ; and I, even I only, am left ;
‘ and they seek my life, to take it away.’ And the LORD
said unto him—

‘ Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus :
‘ and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria :
‘ and Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king
‘ over Israel : and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah
‘ shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall
‘ come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael
‘ shall Jehu slay : and him that escapeth from the sword of
‘ Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left me seven thousand
‘ in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal,
‘ and every mouth which hath not kissed him.’

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of

Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, 'Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee.' And he said unto him, 'Go back again: for what have I done to thee?' And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

And Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, 'Thus saith Ben-hadad, "Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine."' And the king of Israel answered and said, 'My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.'

And the messengers came again, and said, 'Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, "Although I have sent unto thee saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children; yet I will send my servants unto thee to-morrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, that whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put it in their hand, and take it away."' Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, 'Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for

'my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.' And all the elders and all the people said unto him, 'Hearken not unto him, nor consent.' Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Ben-hadad, 'Tell my lord the king, "All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do; but this thing I may not do."' And the messengers departed, and brought him word again.

And Ben-hadad sent unto him, and said, 'The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.' And the king of Israel answered and said, 'Tell him, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."' And it came to pass when Ben-hadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, 'Set yourselves in array.' And they set themselves in array against the city.

And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, 'Thus saith the LORD—

'Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.'

And Ahab said, 'By whom?' And he said, 'Thus saith the LORD—

'Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces.'

Then he said, 'Who shall order the battle?' And he answered, 'Thou.'

Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty-two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand. And they went

out at noon. But Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him. And the young men of the princes of provinces went out first; and Ben-hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, 'There are men come out of Samaria.' And he said, 'Whether they be come out for peace, take 'them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take 'them alive.' So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed them. And they slew every one his man: and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them: and Benhadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the horsemen. And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter. And the prophet came to the king of Israel, and said unto him, 'Go, strengthen thyself, and mark, and 'see what thou doest: for at the return of the year the 'king of Syria will come up against thee.'

And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, 'Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were 'stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the 'plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. And 'do this thing, Take the kings away, every man out of his 'place, and put captains in their rooms: and number thee 'an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, 'and chariot for chariot: and we will fight against them 'in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.' And he hearkened unto their voice, and did so.

And it came to pass at the return of the year, that Ben-hadad numbered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel. And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them:

and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country. And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, 'Thus saith the LORD—

'Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is GOD of the hills, but HE is not GOD of the valleys," therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.'

And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

And his servants said unto him, 'Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings: let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel: peradventure he will save thy life.' So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, 'Thy servant Ben-hadad saith, "I pray thee, let me live."' And he said, 'Is he yet alive? he is my brother.' Now the men did diligently observe whether anything would come from him, and did hastily catch it: and they said, 'Thy brother Ben-hadad.' Then he said, 'Go ye, bring him.' Then Ben-hadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot. And Ben-hadad said unto him, 'The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus,

‘as my father made in Samaria.’ Then said Ahab, ‘I will send thee away with this covenant.’ So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.

And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, ‘Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.’ And Naboth said to Ahab, ‘The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.’

And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, ‘I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.’ And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, ‘Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?’ And he said unto her, ‘Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, “Give me thy vineyard for money; or else if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it:” and he answered, “I will not give thee my vineyard.”’ And Jezebel his wife said unto him, ‘Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.’ So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, ‘Proclaim a fast, and set

‘ Naboth on high among the people : and set two men, ‘ sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, ‘ saying, “Thou didst blaspheme God and the king.” ‘ And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may ‘ die.’

And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him : and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, ‘ Naboth did blaspheme God and the king.’ Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, ‘ Naboth is stoned, and ‘ is dead.’

And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, ‘ Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the ‘ Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money : for ‘ Naboth is not alive, but dead.’ And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying—

‘ Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in ‘ Samaria : behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither ‘ he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto ‘ him, saying, “ Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and ‘ also taken possession.” And thou shalt speak unto him,

‘saying, “Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs
‘licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even
‘thine.”’

And Ahab said to Elijah, ‘Hast thou found me, O mine
‘enemy?’ And he answered, ‘I have found thee: because
‘thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the
‘Lord.’ And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying—

‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jazreel.’

But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard these words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying—

‘Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son’s days will I bring the evil upon his house.’

And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. And the king of Israel said unto his servants, ‘Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we
‘be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of
‘Syria?’ And he said unto Jehoshaphat, ‘Wilt thou go
‘with me to battle to Ramoth-gilead?’ And Jehoshaphat

said to the king of Israel, 'I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.'

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, 'Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to-day.' Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, 'Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?' And they said, 'Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.'

And Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might inquire of him?' And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, 'There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.' And Jehoshaphat said, 'Let not the king say so.'

Then the king of Israel called Micaiah the son of Imlah.

And the king said unto him, 'Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?' And Micaiah said, 'I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said—

'These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.'

And he said, 'If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me.'

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, 'I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes.' And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle. But

the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, 'Fight neither 'with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.' And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, 'Surely it is the king of 'Israel.' And they turned aside to fight against him : and Jehoshaphat cried out. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness : wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, 'Turn thine 'hand, and carry me out of the host ; for I am wounded.' And the battle increased that day ; and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even : and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, 'Every man to his city, and every man to his own 'country.' So the king died, and was brought to Samaria ; and they buried the king in Samaria. And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria ; and the dogs licked up his blood ; and they washed his armour ; according unto the word of the LORD which HE spake.

So Ahab slept with his fathers ; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign ; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father ; he

turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD : nevertheless the high places were not taken away ; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places. And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father : and *Jehoram* his son reigned in his stead.

Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin : for he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

THE SECOND BOOK OF THE KINGS.

THEN Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick : and he sent messengers, and said unto them, ' Go, inquire of ' Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of ' this disease.' But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah

the Tishbite, 'Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, "Is it not because there is not a GOD in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD—

'Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.'"

And Elijah departed.

And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, 'Why are ye now turned back?' And they said unto him, 'There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, "Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a GOD in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.'" And he said unto them, 'What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?' And they answered him, 'He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins.' And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite.'

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, 'Thou man of GOD, the king hath said, "Come down."' And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, 'If I be a man of GOD, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty.' And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty.

And he answered and said unto him, 'O man of God, ' thus hath the king said, "Come down quickly."' And Elijah answered and said unto them, 'If I be a man of ' God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee ' and thy fifty.' And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, 'O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life ' of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. ' Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up ' the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties : ' therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.' And the angel of the Lord said unto Elijah, 'Go down with ' him : be not afraid of him.' And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. And he said unto him, ' Thus saith the LORD—

' Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of
' Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no
' GOD in Israel to inquire of his word ? therefore thou shalt
' not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up,
' but shalt surely die.'

So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah ; because he had no son.

And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, 'Tarry ' here, I pray thee ; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel.'

And Elisha said unto him, 'As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.' So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, 'Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to-day?' And he said, 'Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.' And Elijah said unto him, 'Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho.' And he said, 'As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.' So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, 'Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to-day?' And he answered, 'Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.' And Elijah said unto him, 'Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan.' And he said, 'As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.' And they two went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, 'Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.' And Elisha said, 'I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.' And he said, 'Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.'

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of

fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, 'My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the 'horsemen thereof.' And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, 'Where is the LORD God of Elijah?' and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made.

And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool. But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel. And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, 'The king of Moab 'hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against 'Moab to battle?' And he said, 'I will go up: I am as 'thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy 'horses.' And he said, 'Which way shall we go up?' And he answered, 'The way through the wilderness of 'Edom.' So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a com-

pass of seven days' journey : and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them.

And the king of Israel said, ' Alas ! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab ! ' But Jehoshaphat said, ' Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may inquire of the LORD by him ? ' And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, ' Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. ' And Jehoshaphat said, ' The word of the LORD is with him. ' So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, ' What have I to do with thee ? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. ' And the king of Israel said unto him, ' Nay : for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. ' And Elisha said, ' As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. But now bring me a minstrel. ' And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he said, ' Thus saith the LORD—

' Make this valley full of ditches. '

' For thus saith the LORD—

' Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain ; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. '

' And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD :
' He will deliver the Moabites also into your hand. And

‘ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city,
‘and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water,
‘and mar every good piece of land with stones.’

And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat-offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water. And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border. And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the ‘other side as red as blood: and they said, “This is blood: ‘the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one ‘another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.”’ And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country.

Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, ‘Thy servant my ‘husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did ‘fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto ‘him my two sons to be bondmen.’ And Elisha said unto her, ‘What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou ‘in the house?’ And she said, ‘Thine handmaid hath ‘not anything in the house, save a pot of oil.’ Then he said, ‘Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when ‘thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and ‘upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, ‘and thou shalt set aside that which is full.’ So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons,

who brought the vessels to her ; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, 'Bring me yet a vessel.' And he said unto her, 'There is not a vessel more.' And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, 'Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.'

And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman ; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, 'Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall ; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick : and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.' And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, 'Call this Shunammite.' And when he had called her, she stood before him. And he said unto him, 'Say now unto her, "Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care ; what is to be done for thee ? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host ?"' And she answered, 'I dwell among mine own people.' And he said, 'What then is to be done for her ?' And Gehazi answered, 'Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.' And he said, 'Call her.' And when he had called her, she stood in the door. And he said, 'About this season thou shalt embrace a son.' And the woman bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her.

And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that

he went out to his father to the reapers. And he said unto his father, 'My head, my head.' And he said to a lad, 'Carry him to his mother.' And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of GOD, and shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called unto her husband, and said, 'Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, 'and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of GOD, 'and come again.' And he said, 'Wherefore wilt thou go 'to him to-day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath.' And she said, 'It shall be well.' Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, 'Drive, and go forward; 'slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.' So she went and came unto the man of GOD to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of GOD saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, 'Behold, yonder is 'that Shunammite: run now, I pray thee, to meet her 'and say unto her, "Is it well with thee? is it well with thy 'husband? is it well with the child?"' And she answered, 'It is well.' And when she came to the man of GOD to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of GOD said, 'Let 'her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD 'hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.' Then she said, 'Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, "Do 'not deceive me?"' Then he said to Gehazi, 'Gird up 'thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy 'way: and if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if 'any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff 'upon the face of the child.' And the mother of the child said, 'As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will

'not leave thee.' And he arose, and followed her. And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child ; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, 'The child is not awaked.' And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands : and he stretched himself upon the child ; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro ; and went up, and stretched himself upon him : and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, 'Call this Shunammite.' So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, 'Take up thy son.' Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria : he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid ; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, 'Would God my lord were with the prophet that 'is in Samaria ! for he would recover him of his leprosy.' And one went in, and told his lord, saying, 'Thus and 'thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.' And the king of Syria said, 'Go to, go, and I will send a letter

‘unto the king of Israel.’ And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, ‘Now when this letter ‘is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman ‘my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his ‘leprosy.’ And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, ‘Am ‘I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send ‘unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel ‘against me.’

And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, ‘Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? ‘let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is ‘a prophet in Israel.’ So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, ‘Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall ‘come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.’ But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, ‘Behold, I ‘thought, he will surely come out to me, and stand, and ‘call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his ‘hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not ‘Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all ‘the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be ‘clean?’ So he turned and went away in a rage. And ‘his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, ‘My ‘father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, ‘wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, ‘when he saith to thee, “Wash, and be clean?”’ Then

went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God : and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him : and he said, ' Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel : now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.' But he said, ' As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none.' And he urged him to take it ; but he refused. And Naaman said, ' Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth ? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt-offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon : when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.' And he said unto him, ' Go in peace.' So he departed from him a little way.

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, ' Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought : but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.' So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, ' Is all well ?' And he said, ' All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, " Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets : give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes

‘ of garments.’ And Naaman said, ‘ Be content, take two ‘ talents.’ And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants ; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house : and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, ‘ Whence ‘ comest thou, Gehazi ?’ And he said, ‘ Thy servant went ‘ no whither.’ And he said unto him, ‘ Went not mine ‘ heart with thee, when the man turned again from his ‘ chariot to meet thee ? Is it a time to receive money, and ‘ to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and ‘ sheep, and oxen, and men-servants, and maid-servants ? ‘ The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, ‘ and unto thy seed for ever.’ And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign ; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab : for the daughter of Ahab was his wife : and he did evil in the sight of the LORD. Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant’s sake, as HE promised to give him alway a light, and to his children.

In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves.

And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David : and *Ahaziah* his son reigned in his stead.

In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign. Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel. And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab. And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria in Ramoth-gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram. And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, 'Gird up thy loins, and take ' this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead: ' and when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the ' son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and ' make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry ' him to an inner chamber; then take the box of oil, and ' pour it on his head, and say, "Thus saith the LORD—

' I have anointed thee king over Israel.'"

' Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.' So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead.

And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, 'I have an errand to thee, O ' captain.' And Jehu said, 'Unto which of all us?' And

he said, 'To thee, O captain.' And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, 'Thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel—

'I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD,
'even over Israel. And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab
'thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants
'the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD,
'at the hand of Jezebel.'

And he opened the door, and fled.

Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord: and one said unto him, 'Is all well? wherefore came this mad fellow to thee?' And he said unto them, 'Ye know the man, and his communication.' And they said, 'It is false; tell us now.' And he said, 'Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, "Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel."' Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, 'Jehu is king!' So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram.

And Jehu said, 'If it be your minds, then let none go forth nor escape out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel.' So Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah was come down to see Joram. And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, 'I see a company.' And Joram said, 'Take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, "Is it peace?"' So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, 'Thus saith the king, "Is it peace?"' And Jehu said, 'What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me.' And the watchman told, saying, 'The

'messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.' Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, 'Thus saith the king, "Is it peace?"' And Jehu answered, 'What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me.' And the watchman told, saying, 'He came even unto them, and cometh not again: and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously.' And Joram said, 'Make ready.' And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, 'Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD.'

But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, 'Smite him also in the chariot.' And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there. And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulchre with his fathers in the city of David.

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, 'Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?'

And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, 'Who 'is on my side? who?' And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, 'Throw her down.' So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, 'Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: 'for she is a king's daughter.' And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, 'This is the word of 'the LORD, which HE spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying—

'In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel :
'and the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face
'of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall
not say, "This is Jezebel."'

And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took *Joash* the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, and the captains with the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son.

And he commanded them, saying, 'This is the thing that ye shall do ; A third part of you that enter in on the Sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house ; and a third part shall be at the gate of Sur ; and a third part at the gate behind the guard : so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down. And two parts of all you that go forth on the Sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king. And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand : and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain : and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in.'

And the captains over the hundreds did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest commanded : and they took every man his men that were to come in on the Sabbath, with them that should go out on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple. And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony ; and they made him king, and anointed him ; and they clapped their hands, and said, 'God save the king.' And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD. And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets : and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, 'Treason ! treason !' But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto

them, 'Have her forth without the ranges : and him that followeth her kill with the sword.'

And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD's people ; between the king also and the people. And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down ; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land ; and they brought down the king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.

Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign. In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign ; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. But the high places were not taken away : the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it : and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria : and he went away from Jerusalem.

And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew

Joash, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David : and *Amaziah* his son reigned in his stead.

And they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish ; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

And all the people of Judah took Azariah, and made him king instead of his father. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done ; save that the high places were not removed : the people sacrificed and burnt incense still in the high places. And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death.

And *Jotham* his son reigned in his stead. Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD. Howbeit the high places were not removed. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD. And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and *Ahaz* his son reigned in his stead.

Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father. But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war : and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, ' I am thy servant and thy son : come up, and save me

‘out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.’ And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king’s house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him : for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin. And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and *Hezekiah* his son reigned in his stead.

In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea to reign in Samaria. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria ; and Hoshea became his servant. And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, therefore he shut him up, and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in the cities of the Medes.

For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree : and there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them ; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger : for they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them—

'Ye shall not do this thing.'

Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying—

*'Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments
'and my statutes, according to all the law which I com-
'manded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my
'servants the prophets.'*

Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that HE made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them ; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight : there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

Hezekiah reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD GOD of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.

And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth.

Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them. And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, 'I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear.' And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house. At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabсарis and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field. And when they had called

to the king, there came out to them Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.

And Rab-shakeh said unto them, 'Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, "What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that He, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?" Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, "Go up against this land, and destroy it."

Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, 'Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: thus saith the king, "Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand: neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into

‘the hand of the king of Assyria.’ Harken not to
‘Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, “Make an
‘agreement with me by a present, and come out to me,
‘and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every
‘one of his fig-tree, and drink ye every one the waters of
‘his cistern: until I come and take you away to a land like
‘your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread
‘and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye
‘may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah,
‘when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver
‘us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at
‘all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?
‘Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where
‘are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they
‘delivered Samaria out of mine hand? Who are they
‘among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered
‘their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should
‘deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?”’

But the people held their peace, and answered him
not a word: for the king’s commandment was, saying,
‘Answer him not.’

Then came Eliakim the son of Hilkiab, which was over
the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of
Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent,
and told him the words of Rab-shakeh. And it came to
pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes,
and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the
house of the LORD. And he sent Eliakim, which was over
the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the
priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the
son of Amoz. And they said unto him, ‘Thus saith
‘Hezekiah, “This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke,

‘ and blasphemy. It may be the LORD thy God will hear
‘ all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria
‘ his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will
‘ reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard :
‘ wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are
‘ left.”’

So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah. And
Isaiah said unto them, ‘ Thus shall ye say to your master,
‘ “ Thus saith the LORD—

‘ Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with
‘ which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed
‘ me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall
‘ hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I
‘ will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”’

So Rab-shakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria
warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was
departed from Lachish. And when he heard say of
Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, ‘ Behold, he is come out to
‘ fight against thee:’ he sent messengers again unto
Hezekiah, saying, ‘ Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah, king
‘ of Judah; saying, “ Let not thy God in whom thou
‘ trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be
‘ delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. Behold,
‘ thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to
‘ all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be
‘ delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them
‘ which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran,
‘ and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in
‘ Thelasar? Where is the king of Hamath, and the king
‘ of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of
‘ Hena, and Ivah?”’

And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the

messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, 'O LORD GOD of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubim, thou art the GOD, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living GOD. Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our GOD, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD GOD, even thou only.'

Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel—

'That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib
'king of Assyria I have heard.

'This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him—

'The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. By thy messengers thou hast reproached the LORD, and hast said, "With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar-trees thereof, and the choice fir-trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest

‘ of his Carmel. I have digged and drunk strange waters,
 ‘ and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers
 ‘ of besieged places.” Hast thou not heard long ago how I
 ‘ have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it?
 ‘ now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldst be to
 ‘ lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps. Therefore their
 ‘ inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and
 ‘ confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the
 ‘ green herb, as the grass on the house-tops, and as corn
 ‘ blasted before it be grown up. But I know thy abode, and
 ‘ thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against
 ‘ me. Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come
 ‘ up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose,
 ‘ and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the
 ‘ way by which thou camest. And this shall be a sign unto
 ‘ thee, “Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of them-
 ‘ selves, and in the second year that which springeth of the
 ‘ same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant
 ‘ vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof. And the remnant
 ‘ that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take
 ‘ root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jeru-
 ‘ salem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out
 ‘ of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do
 ‘ this.”

‘ Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of
 ‘ Assyria—

‘ He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there,
 ‘ nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.
 ‘ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and
 ‘ shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will
 ‘ defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my
 ‘ servant David’s sake.’

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the
 LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians
 an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they
 arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead

corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword : and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

And Hezekiah slept with his fathers : and *Manasseh* his son reigned in his stead.

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed ; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel ; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying—

‘ Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols : therefore thus saith the LORD GOD of Israel, “ Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.” ’

And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and *Amon* his son reigned in his stead.

Amon was twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the

LORD, as his father Manasseh did. And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them: and he forsook the LORD GOD of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD. And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house. And the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made *Josiah* his son king in his stead.

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying, 'Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum ' the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, ' which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people: ' and let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the ' work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: ' and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in ' the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house, ' unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy ' timber and hewn stone to repair the house.'

And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, 'I have found the book of the law in the house of ' the LORD.' And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, 'Thy servants ' have gathered the money that was found in the house,

'and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.' And Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, 'Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him. And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo; and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took *Jehoahaz* the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. And Pharaoh-

nechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold. And Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt and died there.

Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which He spake by his servants the prophets.

So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and *Jehoiachin* his son reigned in his stead. And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. And

Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers : and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths : none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon. And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to *Zedekiah*.

Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it ; and they built forts against it round about. And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed

in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden : (now the Chaldees were against the city round about :) and the king went the way toward the plain. And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho : and all his army were scattered from him. So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah ; and they gave judgment upon him. And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

IN the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, to show the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, ' I have dreamed a dream, and ' my spirit was troubled to know the dream.' Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriac, ' O king, live for ever : ' tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.' The king answered and said to the

Chaldeans, 'The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make
' known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof,
' ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a
' dunghill. But if ye show the dream, and the interpre-
' tation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards
' and great honour : therefore show me the dream, and the
' interpretation thereof.' They answered again and said,
' Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show
' the interpretation of it.' The king answered and said, ' I
' know of certainty that ye would gain time, because ye
' see the thing is gone from me. But if ye will not make
' known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for
' you : for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to
' speak before me, till the time be changed : therefore tell
' me the dream, and I shall know that ye can show me the
' interpretation thereof.'

• The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said,
' There is not a man upon the earth that can show the
' king's matter : therefore there is no king, lord, nor
' ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or
' astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the
' king requireth, and there is none other that can show it
' before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not
' with flesh.' For this cause the king was angry and very
furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of
Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men
should be slain ; and they sought *Daniel* and his fellows
to be slain.

Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to
Arioeh the captain of the king's guard, which was gone
forth to slay the wise men of Babylon : he answered and
said to Arioeh the king's captain, ' Why is the decree so

hasty from the king?' Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, his companions : that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret ; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the GOD of heaven. Daniel said, 'Blessed be the name of GOD for ever and ever : for wisdom and might are his : And HE changeth the times and the seasons : HE removeth kings, and setteth up kings : HE giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding : HE revealeth the deep and secret things : HE knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou GOD of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee : for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.'

Therefore Daniel went unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon : he went and said thus unto him : 'Destroy not the wise men of Babylon : bring me in before the king, and I will show unto the king the interpretation.' Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, 'I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, 'Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which

'I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?' Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, 'The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king: but there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these: As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.'

'Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.'

'This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of

‘ kings : for the GOD of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath HE given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron : forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things : and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided ; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men : but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed : and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold ; the great GOD hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter : and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.’

Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and

worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. The king answered unto Daniel, and said, 'Of a truth it is, that 'your God is a GOD of gods, and a LORD of kings, and a 'revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.' Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon : but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits : he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up ; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then an herald cried aloud, 'To 'you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, 'that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, 'harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, 'ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up : and whoso falleth not 'down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into

'the midst of a burning fiery furnace.' Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, 'O king, live for ever. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image : and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego ; these men, O king, have not regarded thee : they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made ; well : but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace ; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?' Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-

nego, answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.'

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, 'Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?' They answered and said unto the king, 'True, O king.' He answered and said, 'Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high

'God, come forth, and come hither.' Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill : because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.' Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

'Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

'I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace : I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers : and I told the dream before them ; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

‘ But at the last Daniel came in before me, in whom is
‘ the spirit of the holy gods : and before him I told the
‘ dream, saying, O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians,
‘ because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in
‘ thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of
‘ my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation there-
‘ of. Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed ; I
‘ saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the
‘ height thereof was great. The tree grew, and was
‘ strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and
‘ the sight thereof to the end of all the earth : the leaves
‘ thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it
‘ was meat for all : the beasts of the field had shadow
‘ under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs
‘ thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. I saw in the visions
‘ of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an
‘ holy one came down from heaven ; he cried aloud, and
‘ said thus, “ Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches,
‘ shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit : let the beasts
‘ get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches :
‘ nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth,
‘ even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of
‘ the field ; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and
‘ let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the
‘ earth : let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a
‘ beast’s heart be given unto him ; and let seven times
‘ pass over him.” This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar
‘ have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the inter-
‘ pretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my
‘ kingdom are not able to make known unto me the inter-
‘ pretation : but thou art able ; for the spirit of the holy
‘ gods is in thee.

Then Belteshazzar was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, 'Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee.' Belteshazzar answered and said, 'My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies. The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: it is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, "Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the heasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;" this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which is come upon my lord the king: that they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever HE will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree-roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O

‘king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor ; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.’

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?’ While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, ‘O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken ; The kingdom is departed from thee.’ The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar. And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most HIGH, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation : and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing : and He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth : and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, ‘What doest thou?’ At the same time my reason returned unto me ; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me ; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me ; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment : and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.

Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand

of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem ; that the king, and his princes, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem ; and the king, and his princes, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace : and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, ' Whosoever shall ' read this writing, and show me the interpretation thereof, ' shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold ' about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the king- ' dom.' Then came in all the king's wise men : but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof. Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet-house : and the queen spake and said, ' O king, live for ever : let not thy ' thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be ' changed : there is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is

‘the spirit of the holy gods ; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him ; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers ; forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar : now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.’ Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, ‘Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry ? I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof : but they could not show the interpretation of the thing : and I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts : now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.’

Then Daniel answered and said before the king, ‘Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another ; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O thou king, the most high GOD gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a king-

‘dom, and majesty, and glory, and honour : and for the
‘majesty that HE gave him, all people, nations, and
‘languages, trembled and feared before him : whom he
‘would he slew ; and whom he would he kept alive ; and
‘whom he would he set up ; and whom he would he put
‘down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind
‘hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly
‘throne, and they took his glory from him. And thou
‘his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart,
‘though thou knewest all this ; but hast lifted up thyself
‘against the LORD of heaven ; and they have brought the
‘vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords,
‘have drunk wine in them ; and thou hast praised the
‘gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone,
‘which see not, nor hear, nor know : and the God in
‘whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways,
‘hast thou not glorified : then was the part of the hand
‘sent from him ; and this writing was written.

‘And this is the writing that was written—

‘Mene, mene, tekem, upharsin.

‘This is the interpretation of the thing : MENE ; GOD
‘hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL ;
‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found want-
‘ing. PERES ; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the
‘Medes and Persians.’ Then commanded Belshazzar, and
they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold
about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him,
that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans
slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being
about threescore and two years old.

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; and over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, 'We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.' Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, 'King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.' Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before

his God. Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; 'Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any god or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?' The king answered and said, 'The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.' Then answered they and said before the king, 'That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree which thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.' Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, 'Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.' Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, 'Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee.' And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, is

‘thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?’ Then said Daniel unto the king, ‘O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.’ Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: ‘Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for HE is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. HE delivereth and rescueth, and HE worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.’ So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER.

Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, in the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom, and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and four-score days. And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; where were white, green, and blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black marble. And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, and royal wine in abundance. Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry, he commanded to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown-royal. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

Then the king said to the wise men, 'What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king?' And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, 'Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, "The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not." Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath. If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.' And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

After these things, said the king's servants that ministered unto him, 'Let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.' And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. And he brought up Hadassah, (that is, Esther,) his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the

maid was fair and beautiful ; whom Mordecai (when her father and mother were dead) took for his own daughter.

So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house. Esther had not showed her people nor her kindred : for Mordecai had charged her that she should not show it. And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

Now when the turn of Esther was come, Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus, into his house-royal. And the king loved Esther, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins ; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast ; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts. Then Mordecai sat in the king's gate. Esther had not yet showed her kindred nor her people ; as Mordecai had charged her : for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen ; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out ; therefore they were both hanged on a tree : and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman,

and advance him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman : for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, 'Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?' Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand : for he had told them that he was a Jew. And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone ; for they had showed him the people of Mordecai : wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, 'There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom ; and their laws are diverse from all people ; neither keep they the king's laws : therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed : and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasures.' And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman, the Jews' enemy. And the king said unto Haman, 'The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.' Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the

first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day. The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; and came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom

he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai ; ' All the king's servants, and ' the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whoso- ' ever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king ' into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law ' of his to put him to death, except such to whom the ' king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live.' And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, ' Think not with thy- ' self that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than ' all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at ' this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance ' arise to the Jews from another place ; but thou and thy ' father's house shall be destroyed : and who knoweth ' whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as ' this ? '

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, ' Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in

‘Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.’ So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king’s house, over against the king’s house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her, ‘What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.’ And Esther answered, ‘If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.’ Then the king said, ‘Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said.’ So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, ‘What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.’ Then answered Esther, and said, ‘My petition and my request is; if I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall

‘prepare for them, and I will do to-morrow as the king hath said.’

Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart : but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself : and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, ‘Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself ; and to-morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.’

Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, ‘Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to-morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon : then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet.’ And the thing pleased Haman ; and he caused the gallows to be made.

On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles ; and they were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of two of the king’s chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, ‘What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this ?’ Then said the king’s servants that ministered unto him, ‘There is nothing done for him.’

And the king said, 'Who is in the court?' Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. And the king's servants said unto him, 'Behold, Haman standeth in the court.' And the king said, 'Let him come in.' So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, 'What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?' Now Haman thought in his heart, 'To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?' And Haman answered the king, 'For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown-royal which is set upon his head: and let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour." Then the king said to Haman, 'Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai, the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.' Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, 'Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.'

And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all

his friends everything that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, 'If Mordecai 'be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun 'to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt 'surely fall before him.' And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, 'What is thy petition, 'queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is 'thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half 'of the kingdom.' Then Esther the queen answered and said, 'If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if 'it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, 'and my people at my request: for we are sold, I and 'my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. 'But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, 'I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not 'countervail the king's damage.'

Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, 'Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?' And Esther said, 'The 'adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.' Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, 'Behold, also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman 'had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the 'king, standeth in the house of Haman.' Then the king said, 'Hang him thereon.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king ; for Esther had told what he was unto her. And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, and said, ' If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces : for how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people ? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred ? '

Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, ' Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring : for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.' And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries : wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to

slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and provinces that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple : and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast, and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews ; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them. And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews ; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces : for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

THE BOOK OF EZRA.

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying—

‘Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, “The LORD GOD of
‘heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and
‘He hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem,
‘which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his
‘people? his GOD be with him, and let him go up to
‘Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of
‘the LORD GOD of Israel, (He is the GOD,) which is
‘in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place
‘where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him
‘with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with
‘beasts, beside the freewill-offering for the house of GOD
‘that is in Jerusalem.”’

Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit GOD had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought

forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods ; even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubabel, and Jeshua, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem ; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD. Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God : the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD ; because HE is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice ; and many shouted aloud for joy : so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people : for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard

that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD GOD of Israel : then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, ' Let ' us build with you : for we seek your GOD, as ye do ; and ' we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon ' king of Assur, which brought us up hither. But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, ' Ye have nothing to do with us to ' build an house unto our GOD ; but we ourselves together ' will build unto the LORD GOD of Israel, as king Cyrus the ' king of Persia hath commanded us.' Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, and hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king.

This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king : ' Thy servants the men ' on this side the river, and at such a time. Be it known ' unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee ' to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious ' and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and ' joined the foundations. Be it known now unto the king, ' that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, ' then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so ' thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings. Now ' because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and ' it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king ; that search may ' be made in the book of the records of thy fathers : so

‘ shalt thou find and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time : for which-cause was this city destroyed. We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.’

Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and unto the rest beyond the river, ‘ Peace, and at such a time. The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me. And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein. There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river ; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them. Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me. Take heed now that ye fail not to do this : why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings ? ’

Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes’ letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Then the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them. Then rose

up Zerubbabel and Jeshua, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem : and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, ' Who hath commanded you to ' build this house, and to make up this wall ? and what ' are the names of the men that make this building ? ' But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius : and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.

The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shethar-boznai, and his companions, which were on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king : they sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus : ' Unto Darius the king, all peace. Be it know unto the ' king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the ' house of the great God, which is builded with great ' stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work ' goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands. Then asked ' we those elders, and said unto them thus, " Who com- ' manded you to build this house, and to make up these ' walls ? " We asked their names also, to certify thee, that ' we might write the names of the men that were the chief ' of them. And thus they returned us answer, saying, ' " We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, ' and build the house that was builded these many years ' ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up. ' But after that our fathers had provoked the God of ' heaven unto wrath, He gave them into the hands of ' Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who

‘destroyed this house, and carried the people away into
‘Babylon. But in the first year of Cyrus the king of
‘Babylon, the same king Cyrus made a decree to build
‘this house of God. And the vessels also of gold and
‘silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took
‘out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought
‘them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the
‘king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were
‘delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom
‘he had made governor; and said unto him, Take these
‘vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jeru-
‘salem, and let the house of God be builded in his place.
‘Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation
‘of the house of God which is in Jerusalem: and since
‘that time even until now hath it been in building, and
‘yet it is not finished.” Now therefore, if it seem good
‘to the king, let there be search made in the king’s
‘treasure-house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be
‘so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build
‘this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his
‘pleasure to us concerning this matter.’

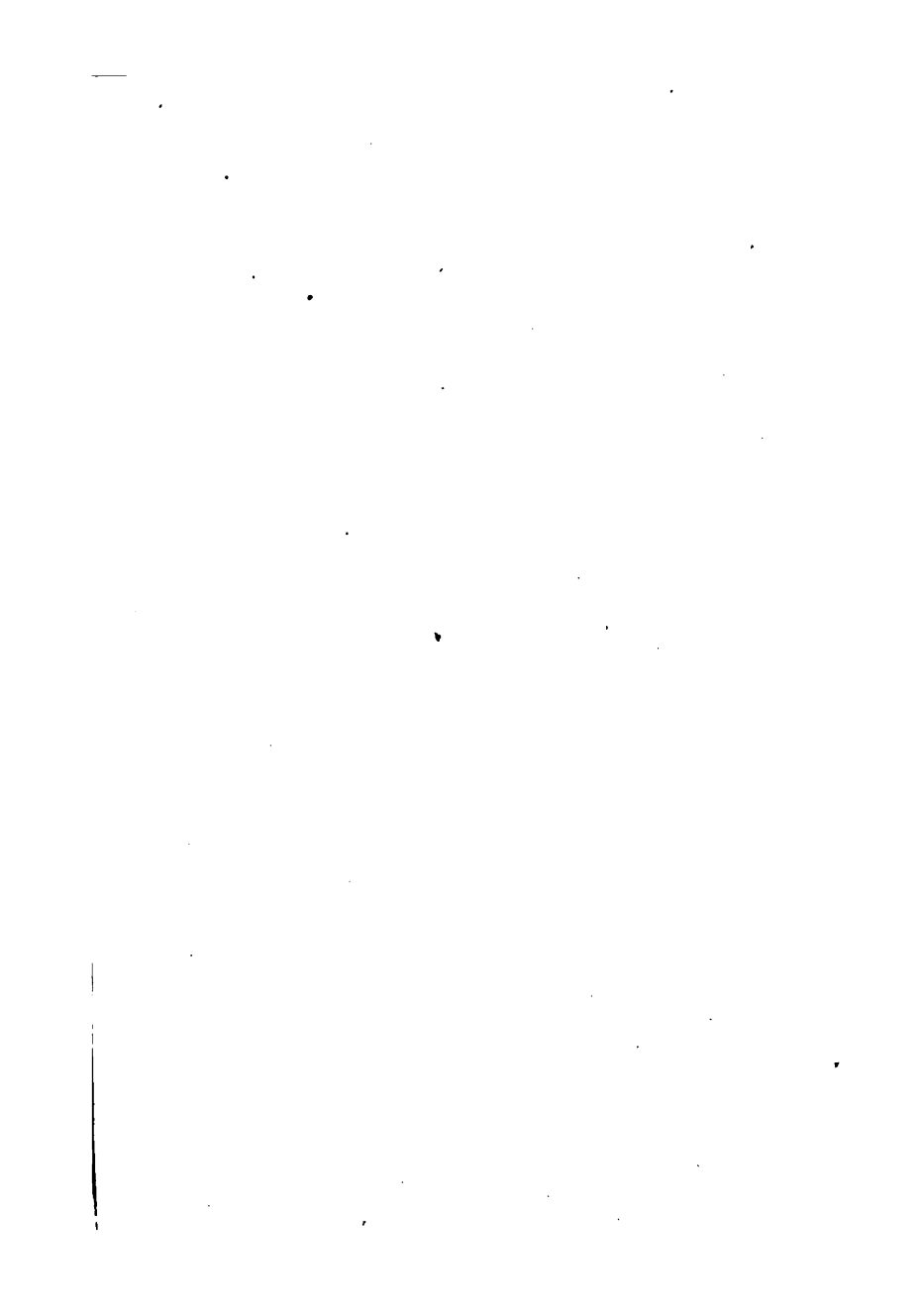
Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found a roll, and therein was a record thus written: ‘In the first year of
‘Cyrus the king, the same Cyrus the king made a decree
‘concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, “Let the
‘house be builded, and let the golden and silver vessels
‘of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth
‘out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought
‘unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the
‘temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and

‘ place them in the house of God.” Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence : let the work of this house of God alone ; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place. Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God : that of the king’s goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt-offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail : that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons. Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon : and let his house be made a dunghill for this. And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree ; let it be done with speed.’

Then Tatnai, governor on this side of the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily. And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according

to the commandment of the Lord of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy, and offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred sheep, four hundred lambs; and for a sin-offering for all Israel twelve he-goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem: as it is written in the book of Moses. And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month. For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat, and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.



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Table 1. The mean (SD) age, height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) of the 100 children in the study

Measure	Mean (SD)
Age (years)	10.1 (0.5)
Height (cm)	141.5 (10.5)
Weight (kg)	36.5 (10.5)
BMI (kg m ⁻²)	23.1 (4.5)

children were given a verbal explanation of the procedure and then asked to sign a written consent form. The study was approved by the local research ethics committee.

Procedure

Children were asked to perform the task in the morning and afternoon. They were given a verbal explanation of the task and then asked to sign a written consent form. The children were then asked to perform the task in the morning and afternoon. The children were then asked to perform the task in the morning and afternoon.

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